

**Meeting of the
Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council
Crown Plaza Chicago SW, 300 S. Frontage Rd. Burr Ridge
October 11, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
MINUTES**

SWFCAC MEMBERS PRESENT	SWFCAC MEMBERS ABSENT	GUESTS	STAFF
Kimberly Coniglio	Gladys Boyd	Angela Barber	Janet Ahern
Rachel Hoyt	Katy Cotts	April Bellamy-Peyton	Fayette Coleman-Gill
Ken Keefe	Arrelda Hall	Lamont Boswell	Barb Crandall
Harriet Kersh	Rachel Pruess	Shirley Davis	Gwenn Eyer
Maya Maclin	Mary Savage	Debbie Freke	Jen Florent
Susan McConnell		Katie Friend	Michelle Grove
Kate Monte		Kathleen Green	Donna Lindemulder
Kellye Norris		Rachel Hoyt	Stefanie Polacheck
Carol Sheley		Tracy Johnson	Anika Todd
Samella Taylor-Lewis		Joyce Pennavaria	
Stephanie Tesreau		Rebecca Thomas	
		Arlene Woods	

Welcome and Introductions - Carol Sheley

SWFCAC Chairperson Carol Sheley welcomed everyone to the meeting at 9:14 a.m. and council members and guests introduced themselves.

Final Report to the Director - Carol Sheley

There were no final reports to the Director. The monthly Director's Report was submitted as required by law.

Approve SWFCAC Minutes from September 20, 2019

Maya Maclin made the motion to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2019 SWFCAC meeting. Kellye Norris seconded, and the motion carried.

State Guardian Report - Janet Ahern

Janet Ahern, the DCFS Guardianship Administrator, thanked everyone for coming and being supportive of the council's work. She noted that she and the Department are responsible for 17,000 children in care. She recognized the hard work of foster parents and acknowledged their dedication to children. She recognized parents' protection of children, their love of the children in their care, and their dedication to meeting their needs.

Janet stated that when caregivers have recommendations for providers for the managed care program, they should forward those recommendations to IlliniCare. She said that with the rollout of Managed Care the Department's UIUC psychotropic medication process will remain primarily the same, going through Dr. Naylor. Janet's office monitors very sick children, so please be sure to inform the office of children with cancer, have transplants, trach's, etc.

Janet reminded council that Adoption Day is being celebrated on November 22 and they will celebrate at the court in Rockford, Illinois. This year they will not continue the event at the Children's Museum, due to budgetary constraints. They have a program called First Star Academy at ISE and Loyola, to engage youth in educational development. The program encourages high school youth to attend college and offers academic and personal development opportunities. Loyola covers Cook and Northern Region and ISU covers everything downstate. Bloomington ISU has open enrollment for children in care. Jen stated that information is posted on the DCFS Facebook page.

Cook Region Welcome and Report - Fayette Coleman-Gill, RA

Fayette officially welcomed the council and guests to the Chicago area. Leadership teams at DCFS have started the process of realigning leadership. Hope Carbonara is the new Deputy of Intact, Lori Gray is the new Deputy of Placement/Permanency and Tiereny Stutz is the Deputy over DCP. Marnita Martin-Harris has been named the Cook Regional Administrator. The leadership team has been conducting Road Shows to introduce themselves throughout the state. Area administrators are being assigned, as well. Cook has been promoting Lifebook events, ensuring that all children in care have lifebooks that follow the child through care. They conduct workshops during the evening hours offering fun events to encourage families to participate. Foster Parent Support Specialists and staff underwrite the cost of these events. Fayette has a background in foster care and is very in tune with programmatic and resource needs. They have a Welcoming Center on South Michigan for youth in care waiting for foster homes. They try to avoid overnight stays. The Welcoming Center is not a DCFS Office or a traditional Welcome Center. Darryl Johnson and George Vennikandam have been holding focus groups to identify ways to open licensed foster homes to children in need. Fayette's Email address is: Fayette.Coleman-Gill@illinois.gov

Managed Care

Dr. April Bellamy Peyton started with a series of scenarios about former youth in care, using her mother's experience as a caregiver as an example. Tracy Johnson is the program lead. She has worked in child welfare for many years, and adopted three teens. She has rolled out managed care programs in seven other states and she introduced Lamont Boswell and Rachel Hoyt, the other team members, noting that each one here has a commitment to the program. They approach this as a health care partnership. She noted the importance of having access to records and being the safety net as one central location housing the information. April stated that they already have a number of employees in place and have hired an additional 200 employees specific to YouthCare, noting that they are vested in this population. They cover medical, physical, behavioral health, vision, dental, etc. They have to look at the entire health system. Tracy noted the areas of focus and asked for input from caregivers to bring into network all the resources that caregivers need. They want to get everyone in that foster parents are using today, and then develop new resources in areas with gaps. They will work to distinguish between causes for

mental health issues, including trauma. They will look at psychotropic meds to trace causes and possibly add in therapeutic interventions.

Lamont reported that IlliniCare has liaisons stationed at DCFS offices across the state. They will support the work during and beyond the transition. They also will have trainers located around the state. He noted that he also has experience in child welfare and knows the struggles caregiver face.

Rachel reported that the population served will include the 17,000 children and youth in care, the 19,000 children and youth that have been adopted and youth aging out of the child welfare system up to age 22. Medicaid works with DCFS through IlliniCare's case coordination; training for agencies, front-line staff, providers, office staff, schools, etc.; community partners including child welfare agencies, community health agencies, etc.; psychotropic medication oversight. Former youth in care will be a supportive resource for youth as they age out. IlliniCare is adapting their work with Medicaid to tailor specifically to trauma-informed care. They are working on systems with DCFS to manage placement changes, i.e. who is responsible for them, who has access to information about them, etc. Trauma triggers, sibling separation and reunification are big issues within our system at this time. They are looking at transient youth, too. Healthworks will continue to partner to do the initial care coordination when children come into care, doing Comprehensive Health Examinations, linking with providers, etc. They are also focusing on providing court-ordered services and supports that might not always be covered. Health Engagement Specialists cover the transition coming into care, assigning to the correct level of care coordination, finding providers, etc. The Rapid Response team works with immediate emergent needs.

Implementation was supposed to go live on November 1st, and has been pushed back to February 1st. They will still do a "soft launch" with youth in care starting in November, getting to know the children in care, identifying providers and ensuring a smoother transition in February. April noted that the delay is based on feedback concerns that this is moving forward too rapidly. Providers were concerned that it might be too much of a transition. The team is working to address stakeholder concerns they've become aware of. The roll-out date is just the beginning; it is not a deadline. The launch will push out the program and help IlliniCare to start staffing the needs of youth in care. They will do a health risk screening for children and they will do further assessments to determine the level of care coordination needed. DCFS is working on messaging that the calls should be anticipated. They are still revising the language they're using, i.e., health coordinators, they're revising programmatic plans, etc. Outreach will be done in multiple ways and IlliniCare is willing to do outreach by presenting at support groups, regional council meetings, etc., by invitation. ILYouthCare@illinicare.com is a site that stakeholders may use to recommend providers, request presentations, etc. HFS is also following up on program changes and re-training.

Contacts:

Margarite Childress re: provider contracts. Margarita.Childress@illinicare.com

Tracy Johnson, Theresa.R.Johnson@illinicare.com

Lamont Boswell, LBoswell@illinicare.com

Anika Todd, DCFS Managed Care Administrator, Anika.Todd@illinois.gov

DISCUSSION:

- There is a lapse between when a child is removed from home and placed in a foster home. They should focus on new placements in addition to post-placement care. What happens when a placement changes and a child has a medical appointment or needs emergency care prior to the transfer of paperwork? State Guardian Janet Ahern said that doctors will always treat in emergencies without custodial paperwork, but do not always want to. DCFS will report youth in care, their caseworkers, etc., on a regular basis. IlliniCare will close the gap using those reports.
- They started with a target list of people who billed for the last part of 2018 and 2019 and have been contacting them. 81% have entered the YouthCare network. They may elect to serve the Medicaid population of YouthCare. If they will not contract for YouthCare they may do a single case agreement for one specific child to maintain continuity. Continuity of care provisions will cover 180 days of coverage, in network or not, when the program rolls out.
- All youth in care will be covered in YouthCare. Adoptive families have the opportunity to opt out of the program and go with another managed care provider. They will provide Adoption Advocates specifically trained to support adoptive families.
- When they make phone calls IlliniCare will introduce the program and encourage caregiver participation. DCFS is working with private agencies to pave the way.

Healthworks - Donna Lindemulder

Healthworks is involved in the transition process to Managed Care roll-out. Nursing hours are being cut and the appeal time is very limited, so be sure to appeal right away if you need to. Dental/orthodontia was automatically approved when DCFS recommended it in the past, but they are evaluating on a case-by-case basis now. They are willing to review cases that are denied through Denta-Quest and help with appeals. They work with the immigration committee to handle services for children coming into care. They are still doing work around psychotropic meds.

National Training and Development Curriculum Training Grant

Spalding and The Children's Bureau are working on curriculum development. This is a new national training program for foster and adoptive parents, a classroom-based training similar to the PRIDE program in style. It will include pre-and post-assessments. Bruce Perry, trauma expert, is part of the development team. This is a state-of-the-art training program. Harriet Kersh and Carol Sheley will attend an informational presentation beginning on October 22, 2019 at Metropolitan Family Services in Wheaton. It was piloted in the Northern Region and Cook with the control site in Central. At the conclusion, the state will be able to incorporate the training program in the way that best fits their needs.

Committee Reports:

CWAC – Harriet Kersh reported that CWAC did not meet. Their next meeting will be held in November.

IFAPA – No report due to member absence.

Regional Reports

Northern Region – New member Kimberly Coniglio reported she attended recent meetings in Joliet and Rockford. The recurring concern is transporter safety for children and youth. Safety concerns with transporters, include transporters smoking, no air conditioning in cars for children with asthma and/or not having enough car seats for the number of children being transported, and/or not having appropriate car seats. Transporters are assigned to supervise the visits and concerns were expressed that they were stepping away. The region requests SWFCAC consideration including reviewing job requirements and negotiating expectations of transporters before DCFS prepares for contracts again. Transportation is contracted and training requirements are minimal. Fayette noted that workers can request safe and appropriate car seats for visits.

Central Region – The last meeting was held September 24 but no council members were on the call. Ken reported that a foster parent potluck was held in Champaign County in September. Central region is finishing their implementation plans and the quick reference version.

Cook North – Kate Monte reported that she is getting in touch with the appropriate people in Cook North so that she can report at the next meeting.

Cook Central – Arrelida Hall reported that they have been hosting Lifebook workshops. Work continues on implementation plans.

Cook South – Kellye Norris reported that they held a meeting September 26. Sue Allen discussed the Foster Parent Reimbursement program. Gladys Boyd reported that they are still waiting to hear from the Director about hosting a training conference. Kellye reported the work of the Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council and what has been presented about managed care. Miss Clayborn, Family Focus, spoke about communicating with children to see how they are doing as a means of suicide prevention and responding to bullying. They worked on the implementation plan. One big issue that came up was that respite payments are very slow. It was noted that this is a systemic problem and 906 forms delays are pretty standard statewide. Fayette stated that they are looking at developing an overtime program to address these issues.

Southern – Stephanie Tesreau did not participate on the regional conference call. Adoption Day will be celebrated November 23 in Madison County with many special events. IlliniCare has conducted various Town Hall meetings throughout the Southern Region. Their next meeting will be held in January.

Hospitality and Marketing - Stephanie Tesreau

Stephanie reported that she would like to be involved in the next issues of Illinois Families Now & Forever.

Illinois Families Now & Forever Newsletter - Michelle Grove

The Office of Caregiver and Parent Support is working with the medical director on topics to include in a new issue. Our office staff will provide support in collecting articles to submit. Topics may include Foster Parent Law tips and tools, upcoming meeting calendar.

Training Report - Harriet Kersh

Harriet recommended that council members be part of the stakeholder group for the National Training and Development Committee with Bruce Perry. Committee members will attend the informational meeting. They are still working to become involved in the updated PRIDE training program.

Policy/Legislation - Ken Keefe, Stephanie Tesreau

They did not have a quorum. Gwenn reported that she has been trying to gather information about a response to their earlier policy recommendation re: the 402 standards.

Public Comment

Concern about transporter training was expressed again by an audience member. Meetings are being conducted and this is being discussed. The council will push this to the Policy Committee. Concern was expressed about reimbursement for DCFS respite.

Stakeholder Comment

Carol noted that shared parenting is important.

MOTION: *Stephanie Tesreau made the motion to adjourn. Maya Maclin seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 2:11 pm.*

Next Meeting: November 8, 2019 at the Wyndham Springfield, Illinois.

Potential Agenda Items:

Implementation Plan Training

Managed Care

Family First

Binders and professionalism presentation

Doug Washington and Jose Oropezza for transporter contracts

SWFCAC - Committee Breakouts for council goals and outcomes all afternoon

Have Edie Wood from the Contracts Unit come in to address respite.